



EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources

October 26, 2011

Erik Vink, Management Board Chairman
Central Valley Joint Venture
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1916
Sacramento CA 95825

Dear Erik;

Secretary Laird asked me to reply to your letter of September 30 for both of us. Your concern about possible impacts of changes in water operations due to the implementation of BDCP is understandable.

We discussed with the State Water Resources Control Board the alternative they wanted us to consider, and reduced the target outflows by 25-50% due to concern about possible impacts on the cold water pool in upstream reservoirs, and possible impacts on local water supplies and groundwater. We believe that with these changes, any impact on refuge or other waterfowl water supplies can be avoided.

We are now undertaking the effects analysis of the conservation measures contemplated in BDCP. These analyses will consider the effects of our conservation measures on waterfowl habitat. At the moment, there are two projects which appear to have possible impacts. They are the Yolo Bypass and South Delta habitat improvement. We are working directly with CWA and DU to evaluate the Yolo Bypass project, and we are still very early in the development of the South Delta project, which does have the potential of increasing floodplain and tidal marsh habitat.

The State Board letter looks to the longer term with respect to revisions of the Bay Delta Plan. In hearings on that plan, impacts of additional outflow and other water rights changes on waterfowl habitat will have to be fully considered.

If you would like to further discuss the concerns you expressed in your letter, please contact Beth and I would be happy to meet you and others from the Joint Venture.

Best regards,


Jerry Meral

cc. John Laird, Secretary

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